Simplification of Sales Tax Procedures

3914. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the Hindustan Times dated 26th March, 2000 capitioned "Tax lawyers moot simplification of S.T. procedures" to bring about rationalisation in the tax structure.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction to the 7-point strategy reportedly suggested by the All India Tax Advocates Forums President in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item is sketchy. The only issue mentioned in the newspaper report relates to freeze on the cumbersomed procedure connected with "C" forms and that these forms should be valid for one financial year and issued to the dealers in advance.

(c) Under the Central Sales Tax Act, 1956, the system of single "C" form valid for one financial year between two dealers is already in existence.

Loan to Kargil War Widows

3915. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any new directive has been issued by Government to the nationalised banks in connection with providing loans or financial assistance to the Kargil war widows;

(b) whether Government propose to ensure that Kargil war widows do not find any unnecessary formalities in getting the loan;

(c) whether Government would also see that the loan is disbursed within a stipulated period;

(d) the details of the nationalised banks which have sanctioned loans to the Kargil war widows, State-wise; and

(e) the details of the Kargil war widows who have got loans, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL) : (a) No, Sir. However, Kargil war widows are eligible to take loans under normal bank schemes.

(b) and (c) Government is committed to ensure that all borrowers including Kargil war widows get adequate and timely loans from the banks without any unnecessary formalities.

(d) and (e) Our data generating system does not generate the information asked for.

Buy-Back of Shares

3916. MISS MABEL REBELLO : Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Company Bill was amended almost 8-10 months ago;

(b) if so, the number of listed companies which have bought the shares, i.e. buy-back of shares—its percentage to the authorised share capital of the Company; and

(c) to what extent it has increased the wealth of the shareholders who hold the shares of that particular company?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM JETHMALANI) : (a) The Companies (Amendment) Ordinance, 1998, through which The provisions relating to Buy-back of shares were introduced in the Companies Act, 1956, was promulgated on 31-10-1998. This Ordinance was replaced with corresponding Act on 1st April, 1999.

(b) As on 7th December, 1999, 11 Companies have availed the facility of Buying back the shares. the percentage of shares offered for buy-back ranges from 5.16% to 25% of the paid up capital of these companies.

(c) Increase in the wealth of shareholders is on account of various factors and Buy back facility is one of them. Therefore it is difficult to assess the increase in wealth of the shareholders who held the shares of the Companies that have bought back shares. However the total consideration paid by the companies that bought back shares till 7-12-1999 amounts to Rs. 54.72 crore.